

THE INTELLIGENCER  
Largest Morning Paper  
Circulation in West Virginia.

# The Wheeling Intelligencer.

The Weather  
Snow and colder Thursday, cold wave  
at night in south; Friday probably fair  
and continued cold.

VOLUME LXV., NO. 102 WHEELING, W. VA., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1916. PRICE—TWO CENTS

## WILSON ASKS BELLIGERENTS TO DISCUSS PEACE

### ACTION A GREAT SURPRISE TO U. S. AND FOREIGN DIPLOMATS

DOES NOT ACTUALLY PROPOSE PEACE OR OFFER MEDIATION BUT SEEKS TO CALL OUT VIEWS OF ALL THE WARRING NATIONS AS TO TERMS—IMPROVES THE PROSPECTS FOR AN INTERCHANGE OF VIEWS—NOTE SENT TO ALL BELLIGERENTS AND NEUTRAL POWERS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—President Wilson has appealed to all the belligerents to discuss terms of peace.

Without actually proposing peace or offering mediation, the President has sent formal notes to the governments of all the warring nations suggesting that "an early occasion be sought to call out from the nations now at war such an avowal of their respective views as to the terms upon which the war might be concluded and the arrangements which would be deemed satisfactory as a guaranty against its renewal or the kindling of any similar conflict in the future, as would make it possible frankly to compare them."

Wholly without notice and entirely contrary to what administration officials have described as his course, the President last night dispatched the notes to all belligerents, and to all the neutrals for their information. Summarized in the President's own words as contained in the notes his attitude is as follows:

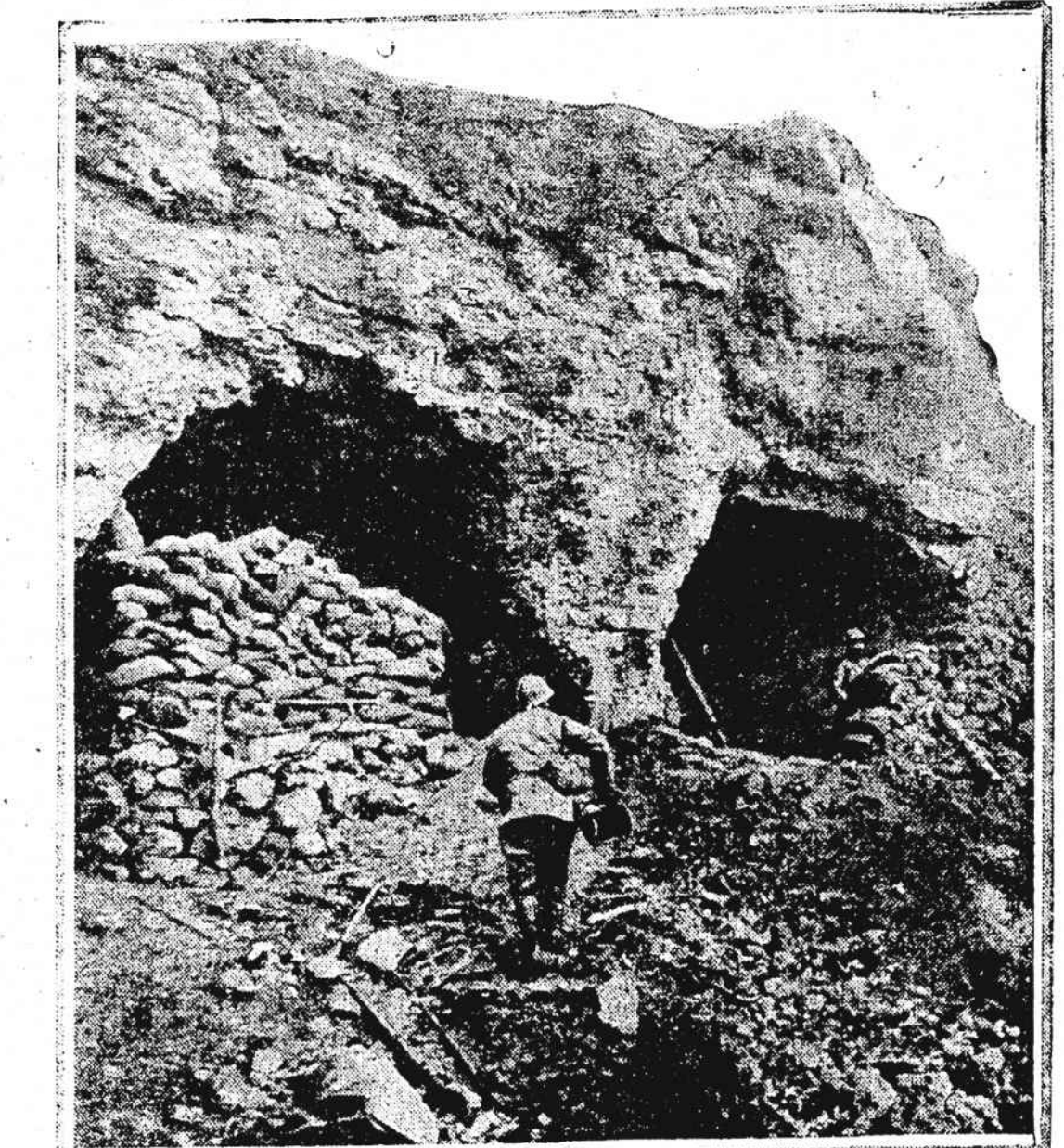
"The President is not proposing peace; he is not even offering mediation. He is merely proposing that soundings be taken in order that we may learn, the neutral nations with the belligerent, how near the hour of peace may be for which all mankind longs with an intense and increasing longing. He believes that the spirit in which he speaks and the objects which he seeks will be understood by all concerned, and he confidently hopes for a response which will bring a new light into affairs of the world."

This latest development in the rapidly moving war events to which a discussion of peace was not permitted to become known until tonight when the notes were well on their way to the American embassies and probably already in the hands of some of them.

A Distinct Surprise

It was a most distinct surprise to all official Washington, which has been led to believe that with the formal transmission of the proposals of the Central Powers the offices of the United States would await further moves between the belligerents themselves, and that certainly in view of the speech of Premier Lloyd George and the announcements in Russia, France and Italy, further action by neutrals would depend upon the next

MUCH BATTERED FORT VAUX, NEAR VERDUN.



FORT VAUX  
This photograph shows fortified casements in course of construction at Fort Vaux, part of the Verdun fortifications and the scene of some of the most vicious fighting of the western front. The bags of earth are being piled up to protect and mask the heavy guns which are fired from within the big excavations. This method makes it impossible for hostile aviators to detect the location of the guns.

### RUSSIAN ALLIES MAKE A STAND BUT TO WHAT EXTENT IS NOT DETERMINED

Teutons Repulse Attacks in Macedonia—Little Fighting Elsewhere.

Aside from the Rumanian theatre, little fighting of moment is taking place on any of the numerous fronts.

In the Northern Dobruja the Russians and Rumanians have faced about and are giving battle to the Teutonic Allied forces which have been pursuing them. Just how strong the stand they are making has not been known, the German official communication announcing it, saying that they have "again offered fighting resistance."

Petrograd reports that attacks by the invaders near Parla, on the left bank of the Danube were repulsed and says also that operations against the Russians and Rumanians are being carried out by scouting parties in the direction of Rimnik-Buzdu.

On the front in France the British near Gommecourt and Arras have repulsed our successful raids against German trenches and bombarded their rear positions at Gommecourt and near Loos and Hulluch. The Germans, on their part, shelled the British lines north of the Somme near Festubert and Ypres and south of the Somme near the French at numerous points, the French replying energetically.

Berlin reports the repulse of attacks against the positions of the Teutonic Allies after a heavy bombardment of Russian trenches were ordered by the fire of the Russian guns to seek their own trenches again. Petrograd reports the breaking through of barbed wire entanglements on the Ystritsa river sector by the Russians and compelling the Teutonic Allies here to flee.

The Austrians are again actively bombarding the Italian advanced positions.

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### WILL FIGHT TO CHANGE RULES INDEPENDENTS IN THE HOUSE FORM COMBINE

May Vote Jointly on the Speakership—Both Sides Claim Victory.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 20.—Independent members of the incoming House of Representatives are planning an organization to work apart from both Democrats and Republicans, with the avowed purpose of enforcing radical changes in the rules.

Thus far no plans have been made for voting as a body in the Speakership fight, but it is not impossible that such an arrangement will be attempted later. Informal conferences among independent members have been held, but no agreement has resulted in an agreement that something should be done to give more publicity to committee work.

At least one of the independents has conferred with Mr. Roosevelt on the situation and will seek further advice from him on how to proceed.

Representative Randall, of California, a Prohibitionist, indicated today the nature of the immediate plans.

"We are anxious that the rules be amended so that the people may know what their representatives are doing," he said. "The present system of voting in the committee of the whole makes it possible for members to frequently conceal their votes on very important proposals. I think if we can remedy this situation and make some changes in the method of reporting bills from committees, an independent organization will be worth while."

Former independents, Representatives Schall, of Minnesota, and Martin, of Louisiana, Progressives, Randall, of California, Prohibitionist, and London, of New York Socialist, are in the press. Speaker-elect Fuller, of Massachusetts; Kelly, of Pennsylvania, and Rankin, of Montana, will join them.

Messrs. Fuller and Kelly were elected as independents. Miss Rankin is a Republican, but hope of her independence is based on the fact that she was opposed by the Republican organization in the primary.

The personnel of the coming House is still in doubt. Both Speaker (Clark) and Republican Leader Mann declared today that their respective sides would have at least 218 votes, a majority on the Speakership.

"We will control the House unless the Democrats buy it, and they are trying to do that now," Representative Mann said, indicating his belief that promises of organization favors were being held out to independents by the present majority.

Speaker-elect said the Democrats already were assured of 216 Democratic members, and that he is certain two more will be seated in pending contests.

### NATIONAL GUARD IN CONTROVERSY BIG CLASH LIKELY TO COME IN CONGRESS

Champions of Guard Will Not Admit It is a Failure—Strong Evidence.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Sharp controversy in congress over the future of the National Guard in the federal military system was foreshadowed today at hearings before committee on both the house and senate.

Major General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the army, encountered vigorous cross examination by several members of the house military committee when he touched upon results of the mobilization of the state troops for border duty as shown in the general staff report based on information furnished by regular army inspectors. Conclusion drawn from the figures to support the contention that the guard system is inefficient and unreliable, were promptly questioned.

The senate subcommittee in charge of the Chamberlain universal training bill decided to recall General Scott, who already has presented the report on mobilization in full to that committee, and Major General Leonard Wood, commander of the eastern district, who described the mobilization as a "tragedy" in his direct hearing before the committee. Both officers have been asked to appear for cross examination by Senator Blair, a champion of the National Guard. An effort yesterday by the Maryland senator, who is not a member of the committee, to question Col. W. C. Brown, one of the officers who completed the report, resulted in a clash with Chairman Chamberlain. The latter determined today, however, to give Senator Lee every opportunity to bring out the facts as to the mobilization for the cross examination, it is understood that staff officers.

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### DAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE: WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Met at noon.

Senator Newlands argued compromise flood control bill before commerce committee.

Resumed consideration of District of Columbia prohibition bill. Passed \$4,500,000 urgent deficiency bill including provisions for relief of National Guardsmen's families and for continuing operation of mines.

Adopted resolution to permit increased water diversion for power purposes at Niagara Falls.

Set January 9 for vote on District of Columbia prohibition bill. Adjourned at 4:05 p. m. to noon Thursday.

HOUSE: Met at 11 a. m.

Considered urgent deficiency appropriation bill.

Rear Admiral Strauss and Griffin testified before the naval affairs committee.

Rear Admiral Crozier appeared before Military Affairs committee.

Passed \$4,500,000 urgent deficiency bill.

Voted to hold memorial services for late Representative Moses of West Virginia on January 26.

Adjourned at 4:05 p. m. to noon Thursday.

### STATE RECEIPTS ARE \$11,000,000 AUDITOR REPORTS A NEW HIGH MARK

Darst Renews Agitation for Amending Law on Sale of Delinquent Property.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Dec. 20.—Reaching the highest mark in history, the State of West Virginia in the fiscal year of 1916, which closed June 30, last, collected from taxpayers and persons and corporations doing business in the State in excess of \$11,000,000. This is disclosed in the report of State Auditor John S. Darst, for the biennial period which has just closed.

"The State fund showed total receipts of \$8,310,097.87, the money which is refunded to the several counties, districts and municipalities.

Receipts in the workmen's compensation fund for the last fiscal year amounted to \$1,816,281.52, while the general school fund showed total receipts of \$1,130,973.62, and the irrevocable school fund receipts of \$38,700, making the total receipts in the four funds of the State government \$11,285,053.01.

"Among the receipts into the State fund as general revenue, the largest item is the State tax on real and personal property, amounting to \$1,148,507.80. The State direct tax on the property of public service corporations raised \$436,850.25. Among other receipts of revenue were automobile license taxes, amounting to \$162,820.52; collateral inheritance tax, \$156,443.16; fees, auditor's office, \$54,615.95; fees from Secretary of State, \$12,259.93; fees from examination of banks, \$12,320; marriage licenses, \$12,856; license taxes on sheriffs, \$184,070.93; license taxes on charters, \$327,455.75; penitentiary earnings, \$100,000; corporation excise taxes, \$234,915.08; tax

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### BIG DEFICIT IN STATE TURNED INTO SURPLUS IN TWO YEARS

BLUNDER DELAYS THE  
VOTE ON PROHIBITION  
LOST ITS PLACE ON  
CALENDAR BY ERROR  
Senate Agrees to Vote on the  
Bill January 9—May  
Be Defeated.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—A parliamentary mislay by one of its friends late today upset plans for an immediate vote on Senator Sheppard's District of Columbia prohibition bill and advocates of the measure were obliged to agree that it go over until after the Christmas holidays, for final action.

The Senate agreed to a final vote on the measure on January 9, after its opponents had been sustained by the chair in contending that it lost its place on the calendar by the action of Senator Ashurst in changing an unanimous consent to consider a land bill.

Friends of the prohibition bill have admitted a fear that postponement of the vote until after the Christmas recess would imperil its chances of passage.

The bill fell into the toils of a filibuster late today when Senator Ashurst then sought to withdraw the land bill and did so physically by stepping to the desk and putting the document in his pocket.

Senator Reed of Missouri, insisted that such a method of withdrawing bills was new in parliamentary procedure.

Audit of Tax Commissioner Shows What Has Been Done Under Hatfield.

RECOMMENDATIONS  
FILED WITH REPORT  
From Shortage of \$700,000,  
State's Exchequer Will  
Have \$56,000.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Dec. 21.—From a general deficit of \$766,151.08 on July 1, 1915, to a surplus of \$56,162.23 on July 1, 1917, is the wonderful record of Governor Henry D. Hatfield's administration for the last two years, as shown by the second annual audit of the finances of the State of West Virginia which has just been completed by the State Tax Commissioner and is being circulated from that office.

In transmitting the report to Governor Hatfield, Mr. Blue makes these recommendations:

"First. Proper expenditures and improper expenditures from appropriations for maintenance and contingent expenses of the several offices and departments, by the heads of such offices and departments, are largely matters of individual opinion, in the absence of specific limitations of the expenditures. When one person may honestly believe an expenditure for the proper administration of an office or department, another may take the opposite view.

"It has been our endeavor to set out the State's expenditures in sufficient detail to enable anyone to see the purposes for which the State is expending her money.

"It is recommended that this report be carefully studied by all, particularly the members of the legislature, and if expenditures are being made that are not considered proper or necessary for the proper discharge of the duties of any office, that a law be enacted, prescribing limitations and making it unlawful for officers and bureaus to appropriate to expend the same contrary to limitations.

"Second. Premiums on the bond of state officers are in some instances paid out of the public funds while in other instances they are paid by the officer. Only in a few instances does the law specifically provide for the payment of such premiums out of public funds. This question should be left to a matter of individual opinion, and it is recommended that a law be enacted designating with particularity just what premiums on such bonds shall be paid out of public funds.

Not Created By Law

"Third. Many voluntary organizations of state officials and employees exist, being national or international in their scope, and not created by law; generally the meetings of such organizations are held out of the State. Some of the state officers attend such meetings at state expense, while others attend at their personal expense or do not attend at all. This practice has existed for many years, and it is recommended that the State should be benefited by the discharge of their public duties and the public probably receives value for the expenditure. But this practice of such expenditures has opened the door to possible abuse, and there should be some authority

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### REPUBLICAN PARTY LACKS A LEADER

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Declaring that the Republican party lacks a leader, Charles D. Hilles, former chairman of the national committee, urged at a meeting of the Republican club here tonight that a conference of men prominent in the party councils should be held in Washington within a few months to plan for the next presidential campaign.

Other speakers urged the need of organization. Senator John W. Weeks of Massachusetts asserted a man of experience, trained in the party councils, should be made national chairman. He suggested that the various state chairmen meet and elect one of their number to the chairmanship. Senator Weeks contended the present methods of conducting campaigns were both wasteful and inefficient. The national, congressional and senatorial committees should work together and not separate, he said, and funds should be collected by a central bureau.

William M. Calder, senator-elect from New York, expressed the opinion that if James R. Sheffield, president of the Republican club, could lead on his western tour in the last campaign, he would have kept the Republican candidate out of complications which were in a measure responsible for his defeat.

### HOLLWEG HAS FULL POWER TO NEGOTIATE

LONDON, Dec. 20, 11:18 p. m.—A despatch to Reuters Telegram Company from Zurich says information has been received from Berlin that Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German Imperial chancellor, in a secret conference with the party leaders preceding his announcement of Germany's peace offer in the Reichstag, was given full powers to conduct peace negotiations without further consultation even with the party leaders.

"The chancellor" says the despatch "refused point blank to give the leaders any detailed particulars of his peace terms, although he bluntly intimated that these terms would not take any consideration of the various expressed wishes of the numerous parties within the empire."

He added, however, that he was granting the chancellor's demands for full powers to negotiate, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg countered with the statement that he would resign forthwith unless his demands were met.

"After a long argument the leaders voted the chancellor's demands, explaining later to followers that they were compelled to do this owing to the fear that if Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg resigned he would be succeeded by Admiral Von Tirpitz."

### RUSSIAN SUNK; NOT WARNED RESULTING IN LOSS OF 17 AMERICANS

Details Reach the United States—Vessel Not Under Admiralty Charter.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—A detailed account of the sinking of the Russian ship, in which 17 American muleteers lost their lives, reached the State Department today by cable from Consul Keppler at Malta. It says the steamer, fighting through a strong gale and under rain in the Mediterranean, was struck astern by a what was believed to have been a torpedo, though no submarine was seen, and that twenty-eight men including the Americans were drowned through the sinking of a life boat.

When the crew left the ship, later a trawler came to the rescue and took the Russian in tow but the steamer went to the bottom the next day.

The consul said he was informed that the Russian was not under admiralty charter, although she had delivered a cargo of mules at Saloniki, the Allied military base in Greece.

The American government will make inquiries at once to determine definitely the status of the ship. If it develops that she actually was a private vessel, the German and Austrian governments will be asked whether one of their submarines made "at" attack. Unless one of the belligerents admits responsibility, it is regarded as probable that the nature of the explosion that wrecked the Russian may remain a mystery, since no one saw a submarine or torpedo and the ship lay at the bottom of the sea with her engine.

It was officially stated at the State Department today that final information showing that the British Steamer Marina, torpedoed with the loss of six American hostiles, was not and had not been in admiralty service, had been forwarded to Germany. In reply to an inquiry from the United States, Germany recently stated that her submarine commander had admitted responsibility, believing her to be a transport, and asked for any information on that point available to the American government.

### SECRETARY OF STATE COMPLETES REPORT

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Dec. 20.—The report of business done during the month of November was completed today by the secretary of state. It shows that 43 resident and ten non-resident corporations obtained charters. Eight corporations increased and two decreased their authorized capital stock. Seven foreign corporations in the state and eight corporations surrendered their charters. The income of the office exceeded \$8,000. The report shows that the Black Belt Consolidated Coal company, with an authorized capital of \$750,000, was the largest resident corporation chartered, while the Monongalia Coal company of New York, with an authorized capital of \$4,500,000, was the largest non-resident corporation.

### FAILS TO FORM NEW AUSTRIAN CABINET

VIENNA, Dec. 20 (via Berlin, 5:30 p. m.). To London, Dec. 21, 11:55 a. m.—Alexander Spitzmueller has failed in his efforts to construct a new cabinet and the task has been turned over to Count Clam-Martini, former minister of agriculture, in whose cabinet Spitzmueller will have the finance portfolio.

BR-R-R-R-R!!

BISMARCK, N. D., Dec. 20.—Forty-two degrees below zero, the lowest temperature here in many years, was recorded by the local weather bureau today.

Today's mark was within one degree of the state record for December, 43 degrees below at Dunseith, Rollette county, Dec. 31, 1910.

ADVANCE IN OIL.

TULSA, Okla., Dec. 20.—The Sinclair Oil and Gas company today set the price of oil at \$1.39, an advance of ten cents.

THE WEATHER.  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 21.—Forecast:  
Ohio—Local snows and colder Thursday, with cold wave by night in south; Friday probably fair and continued cold.  
West Virginia—Rain Thursday morning, turning to snow, colder, with cold wave at night; Friday generally fair, colder in east.  
Western Pennsylvania—Snow and colder Thursday, cold wave at night in south; Friday probably fair and continued cold.

### NO INFORMATION ON THE PAPER SHORTAGE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Members of the Federal Trade Commission said today that at least a week would pass before complete answers were received to inquiries sent out yesterday to ascertain if an actual news print paper shortage exists. When the information is returned, paper manufacturers, jobbers and newspaper publishers will be called for a final conference to discuss a distribution plan proposed by manufacturers to insure small publishers a proper paper supply.

Some trade commission officials who have spent months on the investigation of the paper situation believe that panic among publishers who feared their wants would not be supplied contributed to the high prices charged small publishers buying their paper in the open market.

Manufacturers now have agreed to sell to small publishers at the average contract price charged large publishers and both publishers and members of the commission believe this price would not be increased if it developed that no shortage existed and distribution by the trade commission was unnecessary.

### PEACE REPLY BEFORE XMAS IS THE PREVAILING OPINION IN LONDON

British Reply Will Go Simultaneously with Her Allies—Send to the U. S.

LONDON, Dec. 20, 9:21 p. m.—There is a strong possibility that Great Britain's note in reply to the German peace proposal will be made before Christmas. This was the opinion in the informed government circles today, where it is also believed the reply will be brief and will likely follow the lines of Mr. Lloyd George's maiden speech as prime minister. Instead as it will leave the door open for Germany to make concrete peace proposals.

Great Britain's official reply to Germany will be dispatched simultaneously with that of her allies. Ever since the German note was handed to the foreign office by the American ambassador it has been the subject of discussions between Premier Lloyd George and his cabinet council, which meets daily. The note and the nature of the reply also have been discussed with Great Britain's allies and it is stated that these conversations have progressed so rapidly that preliminary drafts have already been made.

It was, therefore, not be surprising if the allies' replies were ready by the end of the week. Especially, it is said, would this be true in the case of Great Britain's note, which the prime minister is declared to be anxious to dispatch without delay.

When the terms of the note are definitely agreed upon and the document is signed by Lord Robert Cecil, who is acting foreign secretary in the absence of Mr. Balfour, it may be handed to the ambassador at the State Department at Washington for transmission to Germany. This is said to be the most likely method, inasmuch as the United States represents the allies' interests in Germany. It is just possible, however, that Great Britain may

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